

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to  
Examiner Matthew O. Savage at Facsimile No. 703-872-8308, Commissioner for  
Patents, P O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, at the date shown below.  
Dated December 29, 2003 Signature [Signature]  
(David J. Rinkens)

Docket No.: HHI-031US  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

In re Patent Application of:  
Wilhelm Ardes

Application No.: 09/890588

Filed: November 21, 2001

For: **FLUID FILTER WITH REMOVABLE  
CENTRAL COMPONENT WITH  
ADDITIONAL RETAINER**

Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Matthew O. Savage

DEC 29 2003  
**OFFICIAL**

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated August 28, 2003, the response period of which  
is extended to Monday, December 29, 2003 by the accompanying Request for Extension of  
Time, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: